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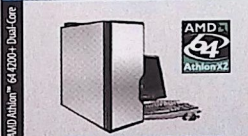


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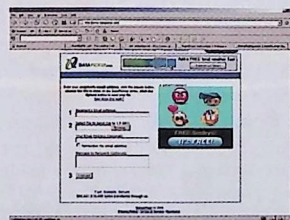
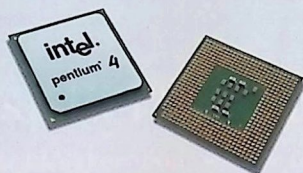
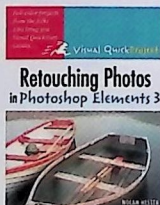
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Not all stories run in all regions due to space constraints. Check our online archives for the full index of stories across all regions at [www.hubcanada.com](http://www.hubcanada.com)

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- Ultraportable laptops
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# HUB

DIGITAL LIVING

Volume 18 : Number 10

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Does storage expand to fill requirements or does data expand to fill space?

When computers first made the scene, reams and reams of punch

cards, fed into the computer in sequence in a decidedly mechanical way, would be required to process a relatively simple equation. Large arrays of magnets would later be used to store tiny amounts of data in temporary storage for faster access, as the very early incarnations of random access memory (RAM).

Floppy disks started out at IBM as eight-inch monstrosities, and later shrank to 5.25-inch and then 3.5-inch formats, maxing out at a measly 1.44 megabytes (MB) of storage in the case of the latter. Anecdotal, I recall playing through Police Quest II, swapping 5.25 floppy disk after floppy disk, wishing we'd been forward thinking enough to opt for the 3.5-inch drives that would have cut my disk-swapping significantly – from 14 5.25 discs to eight 3.5s, if memory serves.

As time wore ever onward and as hard disk drives made headway, storage capacities were measured in megabytes; 20MB seemed a huge amount of storage

and a number of people generally accredited as forward thinking would draw a line in the sand, stating that consumers would never ever need more than X MB of storage.

It seemed a reasonable thing to say at the time ...

Recently, Hitachi announced a .5 terabyte hard drive. That's 500GB of storage space. Analogies such as how many times every entry in a large city's phone book would fit in to that space are hackneyed now, and as storage capacity grows, even those numbers become so large as to have no real meaning.

The question remains: does the industry perpetuate the ever-growing storage space phenomena with consumers merely making use of the space afforded, or do we as consumers push the limits of storage into the realm of the terabyte?

More to the point, is there a practical limit on the amount of data storage space an end user needs or wants?

How about we ask the question again in five years ...

Enjoy the issue,

Andrew Moore-Crispin

Editor-in-Chief

money. A more simple version is, to top it, harder to crash.

It's time to rethink IT. Leave the cannons to the one per cent who really need them.

For his letter, José wins a copy of McAfee's Internet Security Suite 2005 (ver. 7.0), a comprehensive package for protecting a PC online.

This month, in addition to general comments and feedback on the issue, we're asking for your thoughts on our question of the month: What gadgets and technologies would you incorporate into your high-tech dream home? Whatever your opinion, we want to hear from you. Send your thoughts to:

letters@ppublishing.ca.

The letter chosen as Letter of the Month will win copies of McAfee's AntiSpyware 2005 and VirusScan 2005 ver. 9.0. VirusScan will automatically check for and destroy viruses while you're emailing, downloading and surfing the Web. AntiSpyware will help keep your PC free of spyware, adware and security threats by detecting and removing unwanted programs before they can clog up your hard drive.



# McAfee

Last month, we asked whether you prefer using a laptop or desktop computer.

"Laser" writes: I prefer using the laptop. The main advantage of a laptop from a desktop is its mobility. The fact that you can carry the laptop around with you is very efficient and convenient. For school, business and personal use, being able to move the computer is great in many ways. You can move the laptop to work in the kitchen, in your room, office, class, here, and there. You can even work outside and enjoy the sunshine for a limited time using the internal battery as the power source.

For those that travel around a lot, it helps that you don't have to ship huge boxes of equipment, which could be costly, risks damage, and is time-consuming. The fact that laptops are designed to be carried around means that they are light-weight and compact. If you have a small living space, you can easily close-up the laptop and slide it under the bed, into the closet, or even with it just closed, it really doesn't take up that much space.

The laptop is so convenient, it's simply the best!

Jackson Lau writes: I think that every student should have a laptop, since it could aid them during school. Instead of writing down notes, one can just use the laptop and type them in a Word document. It is much faster and more organized as well.

Not only can the laptop assist with notes, it can also be a great help for finding facts on a research topic.

Since a laptop is not a big piece of equipment, it can be hand-carried wherever one goes.

Computers in schools are almost always occupied by other students. When this happens, a laptop comes really handy. One could wait for another student to finish using the computer, or if one has a laptop, he or she wouldn't have to wait and could start working on the assignment right away.

Whether it is biology class or english class, a laptop can be a magnificent addition for students.

## Letter of the Month

Our Letter of the Month comes from José Francisco Schuster, who writes: "Why use a cannon to kill an ant," a teacher used to say to the pals who felt the pressure of updating to the latest IT trend, though they barely knew how to type. I feel this smart piece of thinking is usually not taken into consideration by either the industry or the customers.

Very few people need – or can afford – a 10 bedroom home or a Ferrari. But when it comes to buying a computer, if it's not the best of the store, most people feel miserable. And, after the effort of dropping the last penny to get the "shining one", 80 per cent of its processing power will never be used.

Regarding hardware, for example, I think a proof of this waste happens clearly in Internet cafés and libraries, which provide just access to Internet, email and MSN Messenger to the customers. Why use a computer full of other features for this basic use? What a waste! Remembering the old times of mainframes, I wonder if it would be possible to build a kind of server with only "dumb" terminals – monitors and keyboards. Wouldn't it make more sense?

For software, Bill Gates would do us a favour by building a "Windows for Dummies". Why give a child, an elder, a beginner or basic PC user more than that? This would be a version devouring less HD, RAM and



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*Enjoyment Matters*



# Test Lab: The brains behind the operation

## Processors benchmarked

Earlier this year, Intel and AMD both announced plans to transition their current generation of microprocessors into a dual-core architecture. Dual-core processors work pretty much as you'd expect them to: essentially, both Intel and AMD have taken two of their existing processor cores and joined them together in a single processor die. Each core functions and processes data independently, and the two are co-ordinated by the operating system's software. You're pretty much getting two fully-functional CPUs in one, which makes dual-core processors a very interesting proposition to anyone interested in running multi-threaded applications. But how do these dual-core CPUs compare to their single-core counterparts, and which CPU is the right one for you? Let's take a closer look.

### Intel Pentium Extreme Edition 840

The Intel Pentium Extreme Edition 840 is currently Intel's flagship dual-core CPU, running each of its Prescott 1M cores at 3.2GHz on an 800MHz front side bus. The Extreme Edition 840's Smithfield core features support for Intel's EM64T 64-bit extensions computing, and Intel's SpeedStep power management technology, allowing you to save power consumption through enhanced halt state mode. Unlike previous generations of the Extreme Edition line, the Extreme Edition and the standard desktop Pentium families share the same processor core, the only difference between them being that the Extreme Edition 840 features Hyper-Threading technology while the standard dual-core Pentium D

does not. With Hyper-Threading enabled, the Extreme Edition 840 is able to simultaneously calculate up to four threads at once – the only desktop CPU on the market today with that ability. The Extreme Edition also has some platform limitations; it will not work on Intel's previous 925XE or 925X chipsets, but rather only on the 955XE and nForce 4 SLI. All of this comes at a premium price point: the Extreme Edition 840 costs around \$1,388 approximately \$600 more than it's Pentium D 840 counterpart.

### Intel Pentium D 820

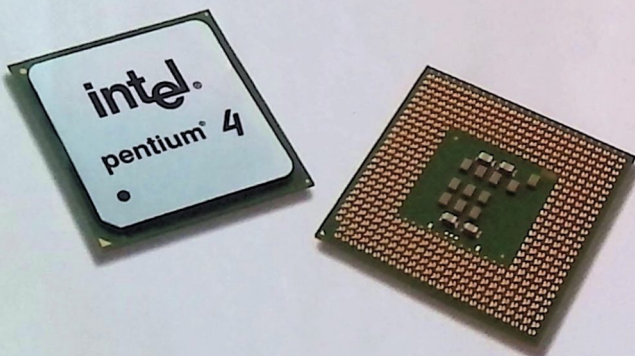
The Intel Pentium D 820 is Intel's most affordable dual-core CPU, costing around \$288 at most online retailers. The CPU features the same Smithfield core as the Extreme Edition 840, but has a lower CPU frequency, running at 2.8GHz. The Pentium D 820, like the entire Pentium D product line, features no support for Hyper-Threading, and therefore can only operate on a maximum of two threads at the same time. Like the Extreme Edition 840, the Pentium D 820 will not work on older Intel LGA-775 platforms; rather, it will only work on NVIDIA's Pentium SLI and Intel's 945G / 955XE chipsets.

### Intel Pentium 4 3.73 Extreme Edition

Although not the fastest single-core Pentium 4 processor when it comes to clock speed, the Pentium 4 3.73 Extreme Edition is Intel's flagship single-core CPU due to its 1066MHz front side bus. Based on the Prescott 2M core, the Pentium 4 3.73 Extreme Edition features 2MB of L2 cache, EM64T instructions, and SpeedStep support. Since the Pentium 4 3.73 Extreme Edition is no longer the latest Extreme Edition CPU, quantities of the CPU at various online retailers have decreased, but the CPU can still be found after a little searching for around \$1,250.

### Intel Pentium 4 670

The Intel Pentium 4 670 is Intel's last single-core CPU carrying the Pentium 4 name. The Pentium 4 670 is based on Intel's Prescott 2M core, featuring 2MB of L2 cache, EM64T extensions, and Intel SpeedStep support. Weighing in at 3.8GHz, the Pentium 4 670 has the highest shipping clock speed Intel has ever produced on a desktop CPU. However, running at 3.8GHz won't come cheap – the Pentium 4 670 will cost you around \$1,050.



74.7	52.7	69.3	78.2	625
70.8	46.6	65.7	66.6	472
96.3	59.1	75.6	70.2	384
95.8	60.9	77.1	69.3	402
126.6	78.9	84.1	79.6	641
97.8	61.5	76.9	67.7	528
133.6	81.2	89.2	59.8	392
104.4	62.9	78	54.4	337



## AMD Athlon 64 X2 4800+

The AMD Athlon 64 X2 4800+ is AMD's flagship dual-core CPU. It is based on AMD's Toledo core and features two 2.4GHz cores, each with 1MB of L2 cache. One of the major advantages AMD's X2 line of dual-core processors has over Intel Pentium D is the fact that the X2 line will work in any Socket 939 motherboard after a BIOS update. AMD is holding true on their promise to make Socket 939 as robust as its Socket A platform, with the Athlon 64 slated to run on Socket 939 well into 2006. As AMD's flagship X2 processor, the Athlon 64 X2 4800+ is priced accordingly and will cost you around \$1215.

## AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+

Like Intel, AMD recently introduced lower cost versions of its dual-core CPUs for the more mainstream markets. The cheapest is the Athlon 64 X2 3800+, which currently sells for around \$500. Based on AMD's low-cost Manchester core, the X2 3800+ has two cores running at 2GHz, each with 512KB of L2 cache. Like the Athlon 64 X2 4800+, the X2 3800+ will work in any existing Socket 939 motherboard.

## AMD Athlon 64 FX-57

Since the launch of the Athlon 64 FX line two years ago, AMD has

remained the company with the world's fastest gaming CPU. The company's latest FX processor, the Athlon 64 FX-57, hopes to continue this tradition, running a full 200MHz faster than its FX-55 counterpart. Based on AMD's 90nm San Diego core, the FX-57 carries 1MB of L2 cache, and like the X2 family, works on all Socket 939 motherboards. Unique to the FX line is the fact that the CPUs are unlockable, meaning that the CPU's multiplier can be changed in order to achieve a higher overclock. Like previous Athlon 64 FX processors, the Athlon 64 FX-57 can be purchased for around \$1415.

## AMD Athlon 64 3800+

And finally, we have the Athlon 64 3800+. As mentioned earlier, there are a few different versions of the 3800+ built on various cores, but we'll be taking a look at AMD's latest 3800+ CPU, the 3800+ Revision E. This Athlon 64 3800+ is built on AMD's Venice core, and includes SSE3 support as well as an enhanced memory controller capable of addressing four dual-channel DDR 400 memory modules at the same time – a feature long awaited by many enthusiasts. This single-core Athlon 64 3800+ costs around \$470, which is about \$30 cheaper than its dual-core derivative.

## Conclusion

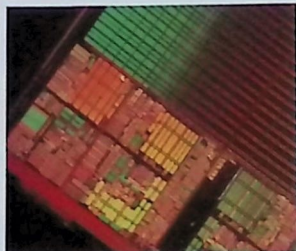
From our test results, it is evident that AMD's Athlon 64 and Athlon 64 X2 family of processors are simply faster than Intel's higher clocked Pentium 4 and Pentium D CPUs. Looking at our Doom 3, Far Cry and Splinter Cell: Chaos Theory custom game demos, we can see that even the cheapest Athlon 64 in our roundup (the single-core 3800+) was faster than the Pentium 4 3.73 Extreme Edition – a CPU that costs about \$750 more.

Intel's single-core CPUs still maintain better encoding and decoding test results over the Athlon 64 and Athlon 64 FX, but when looking at our four dual-core CPUs, AMD's Athlon 64 X2 line takes the cake. In every single test, the Athlon 64 X2 4800+ outperformed Intel's flagship dual-core CPU, the Intel Pentium 840 Extreme Edition.

When it comes to choosing the right processor for you, you first have to decide what you plan on doing with it. The single-core Athlon 64 perform better in games, while the single-core Pentium 4



ScienceMark - Molecular Dynamics (Time. Lower = Better)	SPECview Perf 8.1 - 3DS Max	3D Mark 2005	Price
39.51	17.75	7826	\$1,388
44.12	15.32	7113	\$288
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32.69	18.47	7369	\$1,050
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29.54	16.65	7961	\$1,415
34.11	15.76	5412	\$470





CPUs are traditionally the better multimedia and encoding processors. However, with widespread availability of dual-core CPUs and their affordable pricing, the best way to future-proof your PC would be to invest in a dual-core CPU.

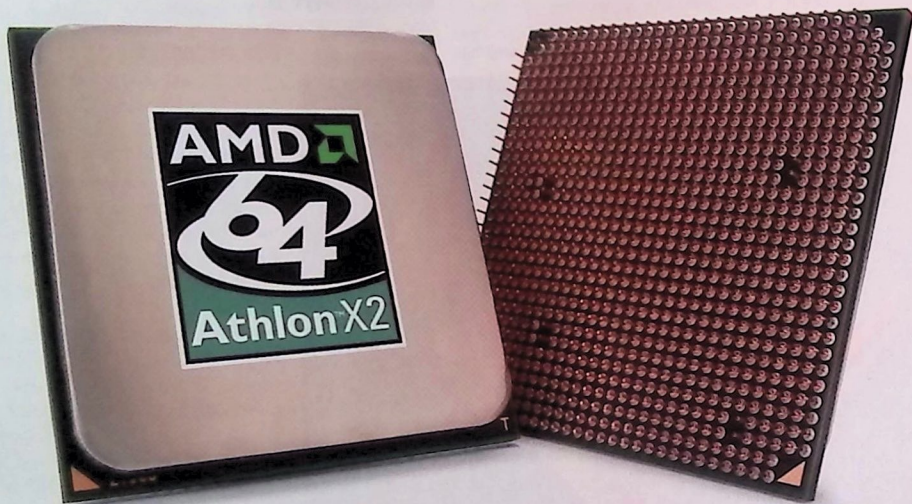
Both Intel and AMD are pushing software developers to write more multi-threaded programs — applications that take advantage of dual-core CPUs by allowing each CPU to render one thread at a time, essentially doing double the work of a standard single-core CPU. Game developers, for example, are being encouraged to create multiple threads in their games, with one thread being assigned as the standard AI / gameplay thread and another thread devoted entirely to physics. No game out today can devote an entire 3GHz+ CPU entirely to physics, and one can only imagine the level of realism we'll be seeing over the next few years with this technology.

But what would be a better dual-core CPU, the AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+ or the Intel Pentium D 820? It really depends on your budget, and what you're trying to do with your PC. While they are both the cheapest dual-core offerings of their respective companies, the Pentium D 820 is around \$120 cheaper than the Athlon 64 X2 3800+. While it doesn't

offer as much overall performance as the Athlon 64 X2 3800+, the Pentium D 820 is a worthy choice for someone looking to build a PC on the cheap.

However, the real sweet-spot when it comes to price and performance is the Athlon 64 X2 3800+. This moderately-priced CPU isn't the cheapest around, but it gives you an extra level of both gaming and workstation performance that the Pentium D can't match. In addition, the Athlon 64 X2 3800+ will work in any existing Socket 939 motherboard, so when you think about the extra \$100 you'll have to spend on a motherboard that supports the Pentium D, the Athlon 64 X2 3800+ looks even more attractive. The bottom line is that if you're looking for the most bang for your buck this fall, the Athlon 64 X2 3800+ is, without hesitation, the best value on the market today.

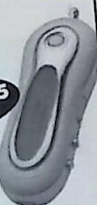
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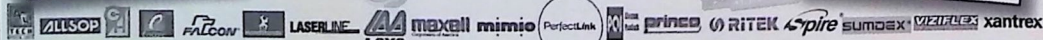
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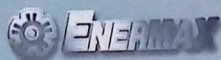
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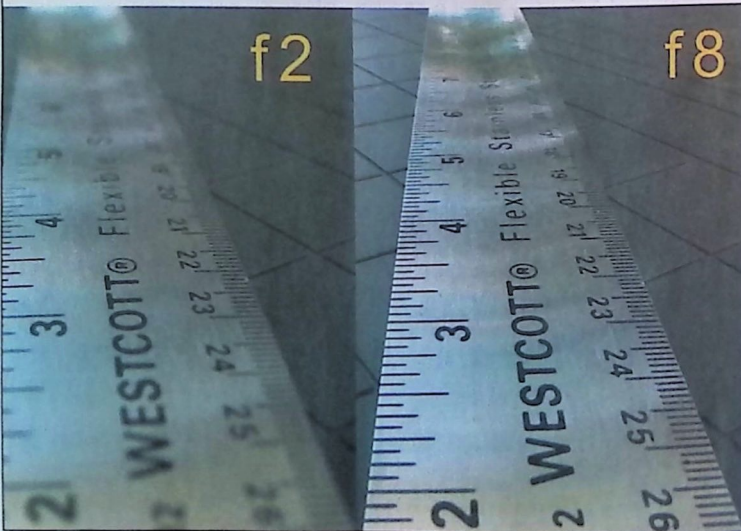
# Digital Photography Tutorial 19

## Close-up or macro photography 1 Depth of field

Most digital cameras have a "macro" setting, indicated by an icon that resembles a flower. When you go into to macro mode, the camera lens assembly shifts so that you can focus on objects that are close to the camera. For example, in normal mode, you might be able to focus on an object that is 15-20 cm from the front of the camera, but anything closer will be blurred. In macro mode you will be able to focus on objects that are just a few centimetres from the camera. Some cameras have better macro capabilities than others, so if this kind of photography is important to you, check out this feature when you are shopping for a new camera.

Because macro mode allows you to get close to a small subject, for example a piece of jewellery or a small flower, your macro photo will reveal a lot of the fine details, which can result in a very dramatic photo. However, one of the main challenges with macro photography is a shallow depth of field. This means that the zone of sharp focus is very restricted. In photographing a ring, for example, you might find that you can put the gemstone in focus or the fancy mount in focus, but not both of them at the same time.

One way to improve the depth of field is to use a small aperture setting. If your camera has a manual "aperture priority" mode, you'll be able to pick one. It might seem confusing at first, but remember that smaller apertures are indicated by bigger f numbers – f8, for example, is a smaller aperture setting and will provide more depth of field than f2. The influence of aperture settings can be seen in the accompanying photo. This photo is actually a composite of two separate shots taken with the same camera mounted on a tripod and set to macro mode. The ruler on the left was taken at f2, while the ruler on the right was taken at f8. Notice that less of the ruler on the left, the one taken at f2, is in focus. The ruler to the right, taken at f8, is in focus from the 2-inch mark



## Retouching Photos in Photoshop Elements 3 Visual QuickProject Guide

By Nolan Hester

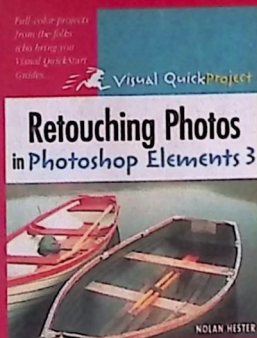
Peachpit Press, 2005 ISBN 0-321-32110-0

Paperback, 132 pages Price: \$17.99

If you want an inexpensive but useful guide to Photoshop Elements 3, this book will not disappoint. For under \$20, you get a volume that covers a variety of common problems (such as colour shifts, shadows that are too dark, highlights that are washed out, and so on) and how to fix them. The presentation is very easy to follow.

Each project has step-by-step instructions that are well-illustrated in full colour.

The book is organized into six chapters, with several projects in each. For example, in Chapter 3, "Correct Exposures," there are separate sections dealing with highlights, shadows, mid-tones, contrast and other topics. Each chapter concludes with an "extra bits" segment that includes tips, hints and cautions.



right back to the 7-inch mark and you can still read the word "Steel".

One of the consequences of using a small aperture is that the lens admits less light, so to get the proper exposure you need to use a slower shutter speed. This introduces a second potential problem – blurring because of camera shake. The obvious solution is to mount the camera on a tripod. Tripods can be a pain to use, but many times the subject of a macro photo is a static object – the flower in your garden or

the high school ring you want to photograph aren't going to jump around – so a tripod can actually be a great benefit, steadying the camera as well as allowing you to position it precisely so that your photo is nicely composed.

Another way to avoid camera shake is to use a flash, or auxiliary lighting. Next month in Part 2, the topic will be lighting of small objects.

By David Tanaka

Questions and comments about David Tanaka's monthly column can be sent to: [digitalimaging@ppublishing.ca](mailto:digitalimaging@ppublishing.ca).





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# Canon showcases digital cameras and photo printers

Canon Canada recently gave us a sneak peak at its new Fall and early 2006 product lines, where the emphasis rested on usability, fashion and "fun features" that Canon says will set its products apart from similar offerings from other companies.

Case in point is the new PowerShot SD30 Digital ELPH, a streamlined 5-megapixel camera that can fit into a pocket. Like its predecessor the SD20, the SD30 is designed for the "fashion conscious" individual, and comes in a choice of four metallic-finish colours (black, gold, red or violet) with matching cases, presumably so that one can colour-coordinate before a night on the town.

The SD30 also features a retractable 2.4x optical zoom and 4x digital



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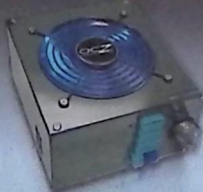
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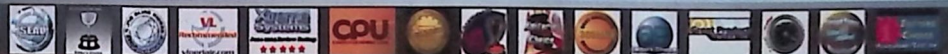
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## BU-20 Bluetooth Adapter

Offered as an optional accessory for all new SD450, PHT and P300A series cameras, the BU-20 Adapter allows users to print wirelessly from most Bluetooth-enabled devices including mobile phones, cell phones and PDAs. It should be available this month for around \$125.

The SD450 and SD550 Digital ELPH cameras will join the PowerShot line between the SD400 and SD500 models. Both have 2.5-inch LCD screens and 3x optical zoom, and offer movie recording and four new scene

zoom, 1.8-inch LCD screen, and 16 shooting modes including manual, portrait, macro, landscape and night snapshot. The SD30 will cost around \$625.

modes (foliage, snow, beach and fireworks). The 5-megapixel SD450 retails for \$700, and the 7.1-megapixel SD550 will run you an extra \$100.

In another addition to the PowerShot line, the 7.1-megapixel A620 and 5-megapixel A610 models are being brought in to replace the A95. In addition to 4x optical zoom lenses, the cameras feature a multi-angled LCD that can be swivelled 180-degrees for more accurate self-portraits, or to better capture awkward-angle shots like trying to photograph over someone's head at a concert.

Another usability feature that caught our eye was colour-swapping, where you can use the camera to scan a colour, then superimpose that colour into a different photo on the camera's memory card. In the demo, the spokesperson scanned a blue wall and applied the blue shade to the

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red of a woman's sweater by replacing the red with the blue so that she appeared to be wearing a blue sweater. One suggested practical application for this rather neat gimmick was for paint shopping – you could easily scan a paint chip, and then see what it would look like on your wall.

All of the new PowerShot cameras use Canon's proprietary DIGIC II chip, which increases the speed of functions like shutter response, startup and autofocus, and image processing speed.

Canon also announced several additions to PowerShot's companion line of portable photo printers, SELPHY. Canon will be replacing its SELPHY CP400 portable photo printer with two new dye sublimation models: the SELPHY CP510 and CP710.

In addition to a more streamlined design, the portability of the line has

been enhanced by the inclusion of a built-in, retractable USB 2.0 cord (no more lugging around and/or losing a separate USB cable), and a rechargeable battery in addition to the AC power option.

The CP710 also boasts a 1.5-inch colour LCD, which obviously makes onboard photo sorting and editing much easier. The CP710 will retail for around \$246, while the LCD-less CP510 will cost around \$185.

The third addition to the SELPHY (which stands for "self photography") line is the DS810, an inkjet printer intended for home use that should be available later this month for around \$275.

For information about other new Canon products, including home printers, digital camcorders and digital SLRs, visit [www.canon.ca](http://www.canon.ca).

By Erin Bell



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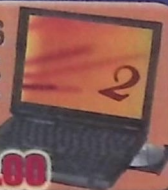
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## DV, or Not DV

### Video editors cut like a knife

Editing video is a balance between art and technology.

We've talked about some of the hardware and software requirements for digital video editing on the desktop in previous articles. There's also esthetic, editorial and story-telling requirements; meeting them may not be as easy as buying a shrink-wrapped product off the shelf.

Video editing tools offer the underlying technical capability to edit and manipulate video (compression and decompression tools, random access to shots and files, special effect libraries, colour tools and character generation capabilities) in almost any way we see fit. The term "eye candy" has come to encompass both the good and the bad in the enormous degree of choice and creativity editors now have.

Good and bad, because we've all seen video that has way too many effects in it. We've also seen video that just would not be as good without an effect or two. Knowing when, where and why to use effects is sometimes called the soft side of editing.

But before getting too soft, here's a bit more on the hard part of editing video: we've talked about using analog-to-digital converters, and installing video capture cards. But we then we received questions about the computer itself: how much, how fast, how big?

The simple, silly answer is: "for what?!" Choosing and configuring a video editing workstation always depends on your editing abilities, requirements and goals. For some people, the basics are plenty, and all the software and hardware they might need is already built-in to an entry-level Apple iMac, for example, or easy to add to a Windows XP machine.

But for a more demanding professional editor, there simply is never enough storage space and processing power ... not to mention hours in the day!

So a happy and productive medium is, on the PC side, something like a minimum of Pentium 4, 2.4 GHz or Athlon-equivalent processor. Most editing systems will work best with one gigabyte (GB) of RAM and two separate hard drives, one for the operating system





software, one for media files (we will talk at greater length about storage requirements for digital video, and for HDV, next time). DVD drives, extra card slots and drive bays, as well as networking connections for external storage devices (USB 2.0, FireWire, SCSI and so on) are all important.

Depending on the video capture card you have chosen, you may still want to look at a fairly decent graphics card (128MB, for sure) or even a nice dual monitor card. There are great reasons to have both a nice computer display, and a regular TV – the old NTSC standard or a high-definition widescreen – in the edit suite.

In other words, if you want to buy a computer editing workstation, you are in the \$1,500 neighbourhood to start with, and there's plenty of opportunity to move on up!

Again, the final configuration for an editing system is based on what it – and you – must do. There are always technical requirements as well as esthetic considerations to meet with system configuration. The same holds true for the software you use; some programs are simple and straightforward, and you can be editing in no time. But classroom training is often required to use a more complex editing program in the most efficient and effective manner.

The software choices, too, depend on what you want or need to do.

Here's an example: one videographer I know shoots personal and family-type events almost exclusively. He does birthday parties for friends, he does the occasional family reunion event or even a wedding now and then. He wants these programs to look really nice, of

course, and sometimes he does them up like an A&E Biography or similar.

He adds titles and music, he manipulates images into that old-time sepia tone look, and he creates some pretty crazy special effects that are straight out of an old MTV rock video!

Of course, part of the reason for watching his videos is because they're fun and entertaining – so the program needs a little extra pizzazz, and adding special editing techniques, transitions, effects and so on makes sense. The special nature of the program means a special editing system is required – one with the extra horsepower to actually make the effects, and to process all the fancy video.

Another acquaintance uses video in her real estate business. She takes video pictures of the properties she represents, and she will play the video for a client who cannot make the trip using a VCR, the Web or even her portable laptop PC.

Her purpose is strictly business; there's no need for special effects and little need for special transitions between scenes. The videos themselves are usually pretty short. The system she needs to edit can be (and is) less powerful and hence, less expensive.

One could say the same thing about the editing software; basic, entry level programs will do everything my real estate friend needs. Her programs have no transitions between scenes other than the complete and immediate switch from one scene to another.

It's called a hard cut, or a straight cut. It's the oldest and most common transition in the visual arsenal. But far from being plain and ordinary, the cut can be the most powerful and impactful edit you'll ever make!

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Pick your favourite TV show or Hollywood movie. There's bound to be a moment when the most jarring, scary or emotionally grabbing scene hits you like a ton of bricks and then it is simply a cut from one scene to another.

Contemporary artist Douglas Cross proved the point in a recent gallery exhibit he staged, in which the classic Hitchcock movie "Psycho" was screened as a 24-hour experience. He slowed the projection down dramatically, so that each particular scene in the movie seemed to go on forever.

But every cut was still a cut. Instantaneous. Earth-shattering. Shocking (perhaps more so than the shower scene itself!). His presentation was a great reminder of just how powerful a simple transition can be.

Some people still edit film with a razor blade. DV editors cut with computers and special software, but there's no reason they can't be just as sharp!

By Lee Rickwood

Lee Rickwood is a freelance writer and independent video producer. He operates *Word On A Wire*, an independent company providing editorial, media production and consulting services to individuals and companies across North America. He can be reached at [videodaze@goodmedia.com](mailto:videodaze@goodmedia.com).

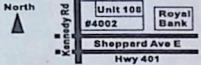
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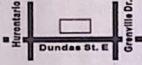
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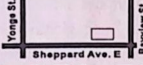
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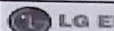
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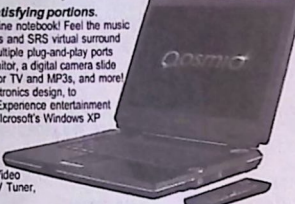
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# Nintendo Revolution controller unveiled

At the Tokyo Game Show that ran September 16 - 18, Nintendo president Satoru Iwata revealed details on the company's much-specified controller for its next-generation videogame console, in development under the codename Revolution.

The wireless controller acts as a pointing wand device for direct interaction with games yet to be revealed for the game system, the company says, tracking motion in 3D space including acceleration, tilt, direction, motion and depth.

Held in one hand as with a television remote, peripherals such as an analog stick can be plugged into the bottom of the device for a slightly



more traditional style of gameplay.

In keeping with an E3 announcement that 20 years worth of legacy Nintendo games – from the 8-bit Nintendo Entertainment System through to Nintendo 64 titles – will be available for download on the Revolution via Nintendo WiFi Connection, the controller can be held horizontally, making it similar to the old-school NES pads.

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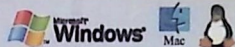




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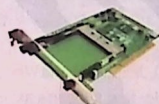
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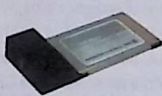
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"DVD is a true convergence product of the digital era," says Amy Jo Donner, executive director and spokesperson for the DVD Entertainment Group ([www.dvdinformation.com](http://www.dvdinformation.com)), an industry-supported trade coalition.

"DVD is the centerpiece of the home entertainment experience, and DVD players have become so part of the mainstream that they now offer multi-functionality like many other popular entertainment and information devices," adds Donner.

The following is a brief look at some of the "bells and whistles" offered by many DVD players for the home.

## Mucho storage

Panasonic's DMR-E500 ([www.panasonic.ca](http://www.panasonic.ca)) has the best of both worlds: along with its DVD recorder that reads and writes to multiple disc formats, this unit also features a massive hard drive to record, store and recall hundreds of hours of television, movies and sporting events.

In fact, the 400GB hard drive can store more than 700 hours of programming, making this the largest-capacity TV recorder currently on the market. You can also take advantage of the high-speed dubbing between the hard drive and DVD burner.

At \$2299.95, you'll pay through the nose for this sweet device, but for home theatre enthusiasts with deep pockets, this one's for you.

## WiFi, baby

Now this is a smart idea. GoVideo ([www.govideo.com](http://www.govideo.com)) has recently launched the follow-up to the world's first networked DVD player. As with its predecessor, the D2740 lets you

wirelessly access all of your PC media – digital music, photos and videos – via your home theatre, even if the computer is stored in another room in the home.

While the D2730 shipped with a slot to insert a 802.11b WiFi network card, the D2740 (about \$230) has integrated 802.11g technology for faster speeds and smoother performance. Keep in mind you'll need a wireless network in your home to take advantage of your PC's media.

Supported file formats include: JPEG, TIFF, PSD and Bitmap still images; WMA and MP3 music and MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4 and DivX video files.

## Media hound

If you're in the market for an inexpensive player that can read countless formats on multiple media, check out the RCA DRC245N (\$119; [www.rca.com](http://www.rca.com)), a machine that plays DVD, CD, CD-R/RW, DVD-R/RW, VideoCD (VCD), SVCD, JPEG, MP3 and WMA, plus it has a memory card reader that supports seven different media types: Memory Stick, Memory Stick Pro, MultiMedia Cards, Secure Digital, SmartMedia Card and CompactFlash I & II.

You can load up your stamp-sized media with digital photos or music and access the media directly from the card, and unlike most other DVD players, this progressive scan model also has a feature that lets you set a slideshow with your JPEG files and listen to MP3s at the same time.

The unit includes coaxial and optical digital audio outputs, component video output, RCA and S-Video.

## Sing it wit' me

After you've watched Chicago or Moulin Rouge with your friends, why not reenact the classic scenes from these musicals?





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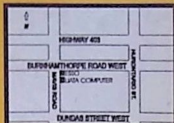
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Socket	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 754
Processor	AMD Athlon 64/Athlon 64 FX	AMD Athlon 64/Athlon 64 FX	AMD Athlon™ 64/Athlon™ 64 FX	AMD Athlon™ 64/ Sempron™
Chipset	ATI® RS480+SB400	NVIDIA nFORCE™ 4 Ultra	NVIDIA nForce™ 4	NVIDIA nForce™ 4-4X
Memory	Dual-Channel DDR DDR400/333/266 DDR SDRAM	Dual-Channel DDR DDR400/333/266/200 DDR SDRAM	Dual-Channel DDR DDR400/333/266 DDR SDRAM	DDR400/333/266/200 DDR SDRAM
Graphics	On Chip Radeon X300 based	PCI Express x16	PCI Express x16	PCI Express x16
Communication	10/100 LAN	Dual LAN	Giga LAN	Giga LAN
Others	Serial ATA, 6-Channel Audio	IEEE 1394A, Serial ATA, 6-Channel Audio	Serial ATA, 6-Channel Audio	Serial ATA, 6-Channel Audio

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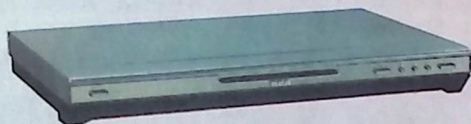
www.apexdigitalinc.com) doubles as a karaoke machine. The unit features two microphone inputs, each with its own volume and "echo" levels (for those of us who need the help), so Elvis impersonators can sing along with tunes stored on karaoke DVD or VideoCDs.

The AD-2500 also features a built-in 5.1 Dolby Digital decoder for crisp surround sound audio, and supports CD-R and CD-RW discs crammed with MP3/WMA music or JPEG images.

It also has a number of output jack options including component video for superior video playback.

By Marc Saltzman

Questions and comments relating to the home entertainment section, including Marc Saltzman's monthly column, can be sent to: homeentertainment@ppublishing.ca.



## DVD Buyer's Guide Tips

Because of its cheap price tag, ease of use and outstanding audio and video quality, DVD players have become the fastest-growing consumer electronics product in history – and a home entertainment must-have for the 21st century. But with so many DVD players on the market, how do you decide which one's for you?

Take these tips into consideration when you're shopping for a new player:

- Take a good look at the remote that comes with the DVD player and make sure it's a comfortable one for you – and look for one with four pronounced arrow keys and an Enter (or Select) button in the middle, since those are the buttons you'll use the most.
- If you still have a lot of video tapes, a combo DVD and VCR player serves as a clever space-saver.
- Some prefer hard drive recorders over DVD recorders – get one with both so you have the massive storage space offered by hard drives and the convenience of taking your content with you thanks to the DVD burner.
- Don't be misled by the salesperson into buying a CD player for your stereo – all DVD players can play your music CDs, too.
- There are usually multiple audio and video outputs on a DVD player, so be sure to find the right connection for your TV or receiver/amplifier (component, S-Video, composite jacks, and so on).
- Those who own a high-definition TV (HDTV) should look for a DVD player with a DVI or HDMI output to ensure the highest possible video quality on your television.

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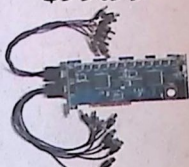
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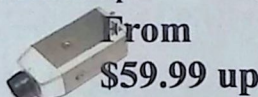


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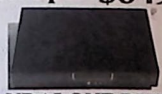
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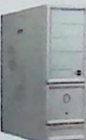
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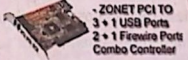


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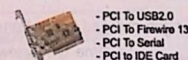


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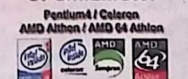
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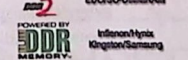
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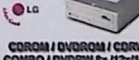


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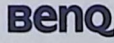
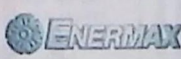


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## HUB presents your guide to the latest DVDs

Blues Brothers: 25th Anniversary Edition  
<http://homevideo.universalstudios.com>



Wonderfully deadpan protagonists. Car chases so outrageous that they become comical simply by virtue of their scale. Surprisingly competent and memorable musical performances. These qualities and more make Blues Brothers as much a classic as any comedy released in the last quarter century, and it's every bit deserving of the royal treatment it receives in this 25th

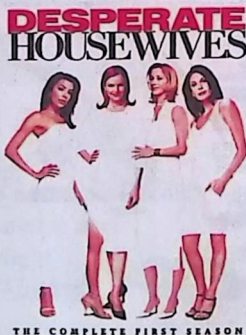
Anniversary Edition DVD.

The fun begins with a fond introduction by Canadian comic and original Blues Brother Dan Aykroyd. Viewers can then choose between the original theatrical version and an extended director's cut. Documentary features include Rounding Up the Band, which explores the enduring popularity of the Blues Brothers, and Tribute to a Blues Brother, in which a procession of friends, fellow actors, and family share memories and stories about the late, great John Belushi. But perhaps the most valuable bonus of all is a pass to an actual Blues Brothers concert in San Diego.

**Desperate Housewives: The Complete First Season**  
<http://bventertainment.go.com>

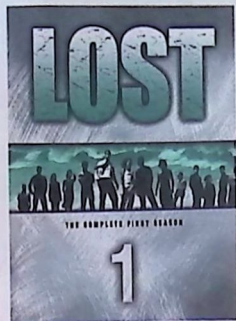
Desperate Housewives, a slightly surreal series about a group of women living out their lives in the perfect yet often hellish suburbia of Wisteria Lane, was last year's most talked about television show. Both women and men found themselves tuning in week after week; the female viewership appreciating the show's sublime poignancy and the male audience simply enjoying the stars' sublime beauty.

In addition to a pair of estrogen-charged bonus features with daytime talk show hosts Oprah Winfrey and Meredith Vieira (both sure to satisfy real life housewives), the Desperate Housewives: The Complete First Season DVD boxed set also includes unrated, extended episodes, deleted content, audio commentaries, and several mini-docs that examine the show's couture and provide insight into creator Mark Cherry's creative process.





**Lost: The Complete First Season**  
<http://bventertainment.go.com>

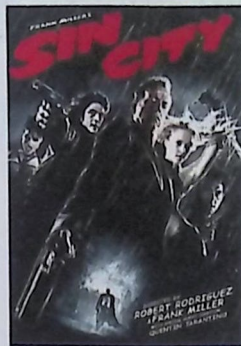


Desperate Housewives may have been last fall's smash hit, but by the winter months another new ABC series was challenging the suburban dramedy's reign as hottest water cooler subject.

Lost, a mysterious series focusing on a group of plane crash survivors stranded on a remote tropical island, quickly evolved from being a gussied-up Survivor to becoming something more akin to The Twilight Zone. Not since the X-Files have TV

land's conspiracy theorists had so much to chew on. By the second half of the season, Lost's growing audience had filled forums throughout the Internet with rumours and speculations on the direction of the plot.

Lost: The Complete First Season DVD boxed set contains all 24 episodes, additional flashbacks from the final episode, and several mini-docs chronicling the show's origin, including audition tapes, cast interviews, and a featurette on the making of the pilot episode.



behind-the-scenes doc. In place of multiple bonus features are four "collectible" covers, each showing different characters from the film. Yippee.

Die-hard Miller and Rodriguez fanatics will undoubtedly rush out to buy the DVD (the particularly gullible may even buy it four times over to collect all the covers), but patient consumers would do better to bide their time and wait for the more fully-endowed special edition that seems almost certain to inevitably emerge.

**Sin City**

<http://video.movies.go.com/sincity/>

Spring's Sin City, one of the most visually innovative films of the new

millennium, has hit the home market... but is suspiciously lacking in significant supplemental material.

Director Robert Rodriguez used the graphic novel the film is based on as the movie's storyboard, resulting in a panel-for-panel celluloid manifestation of Frank Miller's classic comic book. Like it or lump it, such a movie would seem the perfect subject upon which to base countless hours of DVD bonus material. Sadly, all we've been given is a standard

By Chad Sapieha

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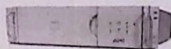
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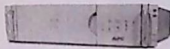


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# iPod nano

Apple's iconic iPod recently got something of an overhaul.

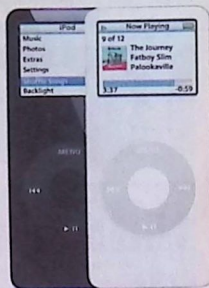
The iPod nano pushes the existing iPod Mini off the Apple Store product pages and incorporates the colour screen that is to make an appearance in all Apple digital audio players going forward.

With an interface and front design very similar to existing hard drive-based iPod players but with flash memory a la shuffle and 1.5-inch colour LCD screen and click wheel navigation a la iPod Photo, the nano is available in two capacities.

The 2GB version is available in Apple's online storefront ([www.apple.ca/store](http://www.apple.ca/store)) for \$249 while the 4GB goes for \$299.

Weighing a scant 43g with dimensions 89mm x 41mm x 7mm (LxWxD), the 2GB and 4GB models are available in white or black and hold up to about 500 and 1,000 songs respectively.

In light of recent iPod user complaints relating to the inaccessibility of the iPod battery once it's reached the end of its useful life, it's a shame to see the nano opts for a non-user accessible hard-wired rechargeable battery.



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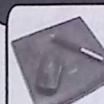
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


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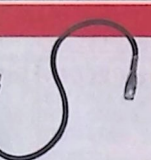
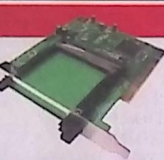


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# Connected: Instant Messaging

Instant messaging (IM) has revolutionized the way people communicate on so many levels it truly amazes me that it wasn't widely adopted until the recent past. You see, despite the fact that AOL / Time Warner was only issued a patent for IM in December 2002, instant messaging has been around for a long time. AOL's claim stems from its acquisition of Mirabilis, the fledgling company responsible for the creation of ICQ (an extremely popular instant messaging application), yet there are many instances of prior art that patent officers could have easily discovered had they simply taken the time to look.

Of course, any UNIX / Linux user will know that the "talk" command certainly predates the year ICQ was released (1996), and various incarnations of instant messaging applications can be found going all the way back to the late 1960s. In fact, there is some question as to whether the founders of Mirabilis indeed had exposure to just such a system: PLATO's TERM-talk, officially released in 1974, which was installed by Control Data Israel for the Israeli

Defense Force, where it is known some of them had worked.

All this aside and despite more than 30 years of delay, this technology seems to have finally gotten a firm foothold and is becoming more entrenched daily. While originally the province of computer nerds, instant messaging is being heavily utilized by industry, educators, students, gamers, journalists, filmmakers, hobbyists, lobbyists, the military – indeed every aspect of society.

While its basic uses – substitution for short telephone calls, email, face-to-face meetings and the like – are certainly obvious in their effect on the function of the populace and generally considered a boon, what intrigues me are the less apparent consequences of employing this technology on the grand scale we aspire to.

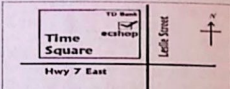
Primarily you might suspect that one's command of the English language would improve given the more considered approach required to express oneself in textual format rather than simple speech. You would of course be entirely wrong. Certainly keyboarding skills



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improve vastly as a result of rapid fire chat sessions ... or failing that, you won't find yourself engaged in them for long. The content of those chat sessions, however, often tends to be absent of stylistic or even basic linguistic considerations. Instead of challenging people on these however, you find yourself being drawn in and soon discover yourself typing all manners of abomination without a second thought.

Though you would also suspect the opposite would hold true, spelling suffers equally from constant exposure to those who clearly haven't had the inclination to learn and aren't about to now. I can't tell you how many times I have misspelled words as a result of seeing them presented incorrectly in IM daily – akin to the omnipresent persuasion of the US dictionaries installed in my word processor to "color" my prose. The ubiquity of IM and the dominant culture behind it seem to me yet another example of how modern media are leading to the homogeneity of contemporary cultures. Perhaps Marshall McLuhan was indeed correct, though I don't know if he would be impressed with today's message. Ah, but that is another article ...

IM, despite having its own well-established acronym based vernacular (lol, rofl, brb), has also spawned its own "elite" spelling and syntax. Originating in the online gaming world and co-opted by the messaging world's younger set, this new mode of textual communication baffles the uninitiated and is a mark of distinction among those in the know. Perhaps I am getting too old but I find L337 5p34k aNd nEr0 sYnT4x extremely irritating, and though I find myself becoming more accustomed to it as the days pass, please feel free to bludgeon me with a

shovel should you ever see me typing in this manner (above example excluded).


Of course, no examination of an Internet-based technology would be complete without a reference to its applications in the realm of human sexuality. Well known are the video chat rooms wherein operators converse via IM with clients who request whatever sexual circus acts tickle their fancy at the moment – less so is a practice known as "Toothling."

In Europe and Asia, text messaging via cellular telephone is far more prevalent than it is in North America. So, as the story goes, British public transit patrons would flirt electronically with fellow commuters via Bluetooth-enabled text messaging – the purpose being to arrange an anonymous sexual tryst. For a while it was all over the tech news and then it went off the radar as these things do. Upon further examination about a year later however it was discovered that the whole fad had been a hoax!

This is not to say that there wasn't a sudden influx of male nerds to London's tube system; unfortunately, though, it would seem they left less happy than they would have hoped as they probably ended up messaging each other.

By Ray Richards

Questions and comments relating to the home personal computing, including Ray Richards' monthly column, can be sent to: [personalcomputing@ppublishing.ca](mailto:personalcomputing@ppublishing.ca).



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## myTego

A Canadian company hopes consumer electronics users will allow them to give some skin.

Don't be too weirded out though; it's all in the name of customization.

MyTego is a line of personalized vinyl coverings for a wide range of cell phones, portable game systems and other portable CE devices. Using the company's online order page, users pay up to \$28 to clad each of the four faces of a clamshell phone, for example.

In a simple online application, users can pick and choose from a variety of template designs ranging from trailer park chic to uber geek.

Depending on personal tastes (many of the available designs can fairly be classified as god-awful), uploading of your own images is the way to go and personalized text with flat colours can be used.

After users create and pay for their myTego skin, it is mailed out within 10 business days. Ours arrived in three via regular mail.

Installation is exacting but fairly easy and well-explained. Skinning a Sony Ericsson Z600 on all four faces was fairly simple if a bit tedious.





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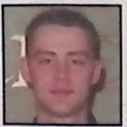
Tejas Sathar  
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S. Kanagasundarajah  
CCE # 12417



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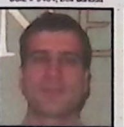
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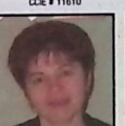
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# Beyond the inbox: Sharing large files online

With size caps on individual emails and storage limits on email accounts, firewalls stymieing file transfers over instant messaging clients and the hassle associated with setting up an FTP site, getting large amounts of data over the 'net is a pain.

Trying to transfer one big Zip file from the work PC to home or sending out a huge file of digital pictures is a problem we've likely all run in to at some point. With this in mind, HUB went looking for the best options in online file sharing.

Our requirements are that each solution must be:

- Free (or at least offer a scaled down free service)
- Simple
- Easy for others to access
- Relatively large storage capacity

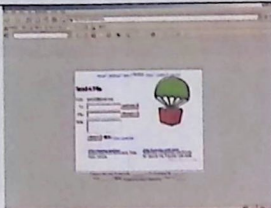
## Dropload

[www.dropload.com](http://www.dropload.com) File size limit: 100MB

File life: Seven days Download limit: One download per file

The deal: User donation and ad-click supported

Dropload offers a user-selectable virus scanning utility for all files sent through the service. It relies on ad revenue and user donations to stay alive. Once users go through a short registration process that doesn't ask for personal information beyond an email address, and complete the quick validation process, files of up to 100MB can be uploaded and a download link sent via email. Once the file is downloaded once, how-



to whether the file is transferring properly, a nice and surprisingly rare touch.

## ShareBigFile

[www.sharebigfile.com](http://www.sharebigfile.com) File size limit: 250MB

File life: Seven days

Download limit: Unknown - users suggest 250 downloads

The deal: Text ads and pop-ups aplenty

Getting over the pop-up ads might be worth it for some users to get access to ShareBigFile's looser-than-average usage policy that allows for 250MB to be downloaded 250 times or for seven days, whichever comes first. Upon sending a file, users can specify up to four recipient email addresses. The fact that there is no sign up process at all and that users can instantly use the site free of charge make it worth a look, just turn your pop-up blocker on before hitting it.

Upon filling out the appropriate text boxes and browsing for a file to

ever, it can't be grabbed again to protect the service from abuse, Dropload says.

Upload seems fairly fast and was limited only by our own approximately 100Kb/sec upload speed. A progress window gives visual feedback as

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send, users hit "send" and hope for the best; there is no upload window to speak of. While it's difficult to gauge without a progress indicator, upload seemed fast; about on par with that of Dropload.

### Rapid Share

[www.rapidshare.de](http://www.rapidshare.de) File size limit: 50MB

File life: Unlimited if activity continues after 30 days

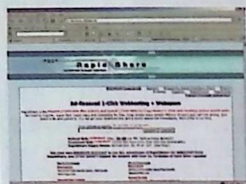
Download limit: Unlimited

The deal: Sign up for the premium service and they may tell you.

The upload may be slow but at least it lets you know something is happening in the form of a text string that gradually counts the transfer's progress.

The site features a "happy hour," which is when download accelerators will work, when users can snatch as many files as they wish at the same time and in succession and when Premium account holders and the proletariat are at last equal ... though it's short lived.

In addition to a link that can be sent out and shared manually with as many people as you like, users are given a delete link, which is unique to the services tested.



Like all of the services tested, Rapid Share bans files that can't be legally shared. How effective this or other services efforts to quell illegal file sharing are wasn't tested.

### DataPickup

[www.datapickup.com](http://www.datapickup.com) File size limit: 1.5GB

File life: seven days Download limit: Unspecified

The deal: Ad-supported

For allowing up to 1.5GB to be hosted and shared, users might be quick to forgive the seven day file life offered by DataPickup.

Users fill out the now familiar email address form, navigate to a file on their computer and hit "Upload" to begin the laborious transfer process.

For files that could be transferred within the size caps placed on some other sites, users would be wise to look elsewhere. The upload process is painfully slow and doesn't offer any sort of reference to the progress.

However, for huge files that can't be sent any other way, DataPickup is the only option we found for files over 500MB and the only usable service for files over 250MB.

Illegitimate uses for this service likely abound, given its generous file size allowances.

Despite its one download only policy and 100MB file size cap, Dropload was the most effective of all the sites tested. Its fast upload, upload monitor, automated email bot and generally clean, simple layout makes it so. While it's impossible to properly judge, it also seems the least shady of the services we looked at.

By Andrew Moore-Crispin

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# Moving to Mac: The Command Keys

If you're a long-time Windows user, you've probably become familiar with a number of keyboard shortcuts for oft-used commands or features. Well, guess what? Mac has a number of keyboard shortcuts, too, and the good news for those in the process of switching to Mac is that many of them are the same.

## Global commands that are the same as in the Windows universe

Well ... almost the same. The important thing to remember is that even though both PC and Mac have a Ctrl key, the Mac actually uses the Command key in place of the Ctrl key in most basic commands. (The Command key is, it's the one with the Apple and/or the "squiggle" on it, typically located right beside the spacebar.) It's this type of overlap that makes it quite easy to make the switch between operating systems.

**Command-A: Select all.** Highlights all items within a window to allow you to copy them, cut them, or transform them. Windows equivalent: Ctrl-A.

**Command-Z: Undo.** Oops! Undoes whatever your last command or operation was, if you did it by accident ... or just don't like the way it turned out. Windows equivalent: Ctrl-Z.

**Command-X: Cut.** Removes anything you have highlighted and places it into the paste buffer, so you can paste it elsewhere in the document. Windows equivalent: Ctrl-X.

**Command-C: Copy.** Makes a copy of things you have highlighted and places them into the paste buffer, without removing the original copy. Windows equivalent: Ctrl-C.

**Command-V: Paste.** Pastes whatever is waiting in the paste buffer. Windows equivalent: Ctrl-V.

**Command-N: New window.** This opens up a new Web browser window, a new word processing document, etc. Windows equivalent: Ctrl-N.

## Global commands that are different

There are a few handy commands that have Windows equivalents, but don't use the straight Ctrl-to-Command conversion, or use different key sequences altogether:

**Command-W: Close window.** If you're using a Web browser or your word processor, and you only want to close the window you're currently using – but not the whole application – hit Command-W. Windows equivalent: Ctrl-F4, though Ctrl-W does work in certain applications.

**Command-Q: Quit application.** If you want to close down the entire

application, including all child windows, this one will do the trick. Win equiv: Alt-F4, though again, Ctrl-Q is used by certain applications. (In Windows, Alt-F4 will only shut down the instance of the program you're currently using, so if you have Firefox open four times, you'll have to shut down each window individually. In Mac, it will shut down all instances of the program.)

**Command-TAB: Change application.** If you're constantly switching back and forth between two (or more) applications, the easiest way to do so is by hitting Command-TAB. In the middle of your screen, you'll see icons for all open applications; hold down the command key and hit TAB until the application you want is highlighted. Note: by holding down Command and the Shift key at the same time, the direction is reversed. Windows equivalent: Alt-TAB.

**Command-': Change window.** If you are in an application with multiple windows open, and you need to move between them, use Command-' (that's the key directly above TAB on most keyboards). As with the change application shortcut, changing this to Command-Shift-' will cycle through child windows in the reverse direction. Win equiv: Ctrl-TAB.

By Sean Carruthers

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# Are you talking to me?

## Samsung P207 speech-to-text phone

Hello ... readers ... comma ... this ... phone ... is ... pretty ... neat ... if ... you're ... alright ... with ... speaking ... in ... a ... disjointed ... manner.

The Samsung P207's unique claim to fame is that it is labelled a "speech to text" phone. Rather than bashing out text messages using the alphanumeric keypad, users can press a button to activate voice recognition and access common menu functions.

Hitting the voice input button and saying "Call Ralph," for example, will net a computerized female voice that does its best to read the text input



from your address book. It's unique in the fact that voice dialing will theoretically now work for any contact; users aren't required to train the phone or associate recordings with individual address book entries. The downside is that the phone will sometimes need to confirm: "Did you say call [in a bizarre computer voice] Raelff."

Sending a text message using voice input requires users to set aside about five minutes upon

**Size:** 86mm x 46mm x 24mm

**Screen:** 176 x 220 pixels with 262K colours

**Camera:** VGA **Data:** EDGE

### Pros:

- Voice access for many menu functions
- Excellent aesthetics; small and lightweight

### Cons:

- Voice recognition sometimes spotty and awkward
- Bluetooth conspicuously absent

first use, reading words on the screen as they pop up to train the phone to the unique elements their voice. The first 10 or so texts will require a bit of massaging before it can accurately translate speech to text.

Perhaps the biggest issue with speech to text after the few minor training giggles is that you will likely feel like a fool if composing a text in mixed company. The speech recognition can also be spotty in outdoor or somewhat noisy environments.

The P207 is a super slick clamshell tri-band phone with enough bells and whistles to make it a tempting choice for those that don't mind getting tied to a three-year service contract; Rogers is currently offering the P207 for about \$100 with a three-year plan. Expect to pay about \$225 with a one-year contract; no monthly service option is currently available.

By Andrew Moore-Crispin

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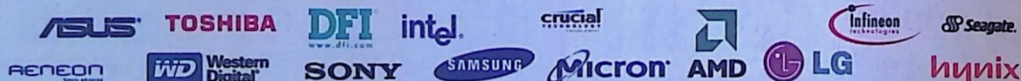
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# Podcasting through iTunes

## How to subscribe, download and manage your audio picks

This summer, Apple updated its popular iTunes music software with the ability to download audio shows, called "podcasts."

Podcasting, which debuted late in 2004, is a community-driven phenomenon born out of the popularity of the iPod, Apple's sleek digital music player that, while about the size of a bar of soap, can carry up to 15,000 songs (60GB version; \$519).

Podcasting lets users create and upload their own audio programs – be it a political rant, comedy routine, poetry, news broadcast or the latest music remix from a popular club DJ – while others subscribe and download the podcast to listen to on their computer or iPod.

And it's not just a guy in his basement looking to talk about sports – major companies such as ABC, CBC, CNN, ESPN and Disney have also jumped onboard the podcast bandwagon, along with thousands of radio stations across the country.

Apple's iTunes v.4.9 download for Macintosh or Windows PCs lets users search and subscribe to more than 3,000 free podcasts, including the ability for each new episode to automatically download when available.

The best part is, downloading podcasts from Apple iTunes is a breeze.

Consider the following a step-to-step guide on how it's done:

**Step 1:** Download the free iTunes 4.9 from [www.apple.com/itunes](http://www.apple.com/itunes). The Mac version (OS X 10.2.8 or later) is 11MB, while the Windows XP/2000 version is 21MB. A full list of the Macintosh and Windows system requirements is outlined at this Web site. If you already have iTunes software installed on your computer, you will get a notification that a newer version is available, so click where indicated.

**Step 2:** Launch the iTunes software. On the left-hand



side of the screen, under Source, click Music Store. In the main window, you will now see the word Podcasts on the left-hand side [above Audiobooks]. Click this, and a purple Podcasting page will appear in this main window.

**Step 3:** This page is referred to as the Podcast Directory. Here you can click through Apple's Top 20 or Top 100 podcasts (measured by number of subscriptions), browse podcasts by category (e.g. Talk Radio, Food, Politics, Technology) or type a word into the podcast search window (such as "wine"). Alternatively, you can narrow down your podcast search by its title or author. If you want to upload your own podcast, click Publish a Podcast from the list of available options and follow the instructions.

**Step 4:** When you click on a desired podcast, you will see an editorial blurb with information about its contents, number of podcast episodes available and a link to its official Web site. You may also see a list of available episodes near the bottom of the page; double-clicking on one of them lets you listen to a show immediately. If you like what you hear, click the Subscribe button to add this podcast to your lineup; doing so opens up a new text-based window, referred to as the iTunes Podcast Subscriptions page.

**Step 5:** The iTunes Podcast Subscriptions page, which is accessible by clicking Podcasts under the Source list on the left-hand side of iTunes, lists all your podcast subscriptions. To change your settings – such as how often the podcast should be updated, if you want them automatically synchronized to your iPod and how many episodes to keep per podcast – simply click the Settings tab in the lower right-hand side of this page. You can also right-mouse click on any podcast subscription to pull up additional options. That's it. Happy listening!



By Marc Saltzman



# Hit the road: Music on the move ... and in one place

If you've got an iPod or other portable music player, there's a good chance that it goes with you wherever you go: on the bus to work, at your desk while you work, to the gym, in your car and to the corner store. Thankfully, you can use these portable players even when you're not on the go.

## FM Transmitters

Belkin TuneBase FM for iPod Mini

www.belkin.com \$100

If you've opted for the iPod Mini, here's a great Mini-specific charger and

transmitter combo. The TuneBase FM plugs into your car's cigarette lighter and features a flexible stem between the power connector and the iPod holder, allowing you to bend it around obstacles on your dashboard and



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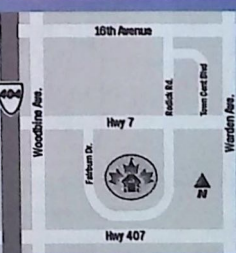
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**Griffin RocketFM****www.griffintechnology.com \$50**

Why should the folks on the road have all the fun? Griffin Technology – manufacturer of the successful iTrip FM transmitter for the iPod – has created this new FM transmitter for your home computer (either Mac or PC). The RocketFM connects to your computer via USB, and comes with a short length of cable so you can position it for best transmission quality. You set the transmitter frequency on the PC, and then you can tune in your music on any nearby radio. The good news is that it's not application-specific: you can use it with iTunes or Windows Media Player ... even a game. In the end, it allows you to use any nearby FM receiver as your computer's speaker set.

**Home docks****Altec Lansing inMotion iM7****www.alteclansing.com \$300**

A successor to the compact iM3 iPod dock, Altec Lansing's inMotion iM7 looks more like a small cassette boombox. In fact, you even insert your iPod into the iM7 like it was a cassette, closing it into the iM7 by pushing the cassette-style door closed. There's a small plastic insert you can use if you have an iPod Mini, and a spinning plastic wheel behind the iPod will gently clamp the iPod into place. Once your player is docked, you can reach through the door and control the iPod using the regular controls, or use the wireless remote control that comes with the iM7. The good news is the sound quality is excellent, and if you have eight D-cell batteries kicking around, you can sling the whole thing onto your shoulder and head off down the street. Added bonus: not only does the iM7 feature an auxiliary input so you can use it with other players, it also has S-Video and composite video out, so you can connect your photo-ready iPod to a television set.

**Griffin TuneBox****www.griffintechnology.com \$50**

If you have an iPod Shuffle, Griffin's TuneBox will not only keep you charged up, it'll give you a compact set of speakers, too. It's not strictly plug-and-play – you have to also connect a cable to the Shuffle's headphone jack – but it's close enough to make it a quick-and-easy dock for your Shuffle.

**By Sean Carruthers****RIP Rio**

Even though it was the first MP3 player to gain wide appeal (and notoriety), the Rio name is apparently being packed in for good, after a long series of mergers, sales and relaunches. Alas.

position it where you need it to be. You can choose any frequency on the FM dial using the small LCD window on the front of the TuneBase, and you can store up to four presets, if you regularly travel to areas where the free spots on the FM dial are different.

**Kensington Digital FM Transmitter / Auto Charger for iPod****www.kensington.com \$100**

Kensington's Digital FM Transmitter fits straight into the car's cigarette lighter and connects to the iPod using a cable instead of a fixed mount, allowing you to move the iPod around as necessary. A small LCD window sits on the front panel of the transmitter, and you can store up to three preset stations using the buttons on the front. The lack of a holster or mounting bracket for the iPod is a bit disappointing, especially if you don't have a convenient place to store the iPod while you're in transit, but the configuration does have one key advantage: you can use the connector with almost any of the recent hard drive-based iPods, not just the one that happens to fit the holster.





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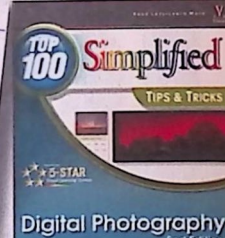
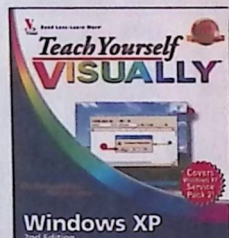
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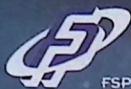
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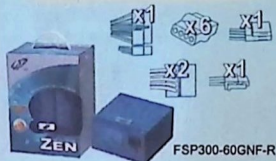
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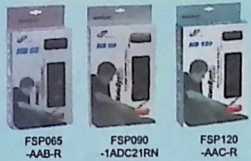
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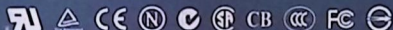
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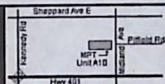
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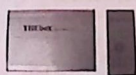


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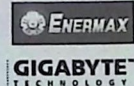
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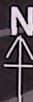
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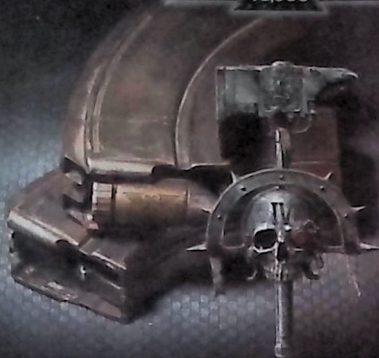
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# From CSI to the Real World: Computer Forensics

The next time you have a few moments to spare, surf on over to Nielsen Media ([www.nielsenmedia.com](http://www.nielsenmedia.com)) and check out the number one TV show in the United States. At the time of writing, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* was the top show on TV with a total viewership of 12,856,000 people. Not bad for a show about a bunch of science geeks who use brains over brawn to help the police catch the bad guys.

So why talk about a TV show that focuses on dead bodies and hardcore science in a magazine dedicated to digital living? Simple. Every now and again one of the actors on the show will need to use the computer of a deceased person to investigate his or her murder, and this is where things go horribly, horribly wrong. Well, wrong insofar as maintaining any realism to a technological investigation, that is.

A basic definition of computer forensics states that it is the process of retrieving information from electronic devices – most commonly from a PC or file server, although any electronic device that stores data could be involved with the data retrieval process. And as our lives become more entwined with digital media, the importance of being able to properly search through someone's digital life for clues is only going to gain importance.

*CSI* is a great show and does the best that it can within the one hour timeframe. The actors on the show take care to not disturb a crime scene and to represent "real world" scenarios; however, when electronic media is present, they have no qualms about turning on a computer and searching for the "smoking gun" email or internet Web site. This is unfortunate, because to the trained eye it is obvious that no one at CBS has ever thought of consulting with a computer forensics practitioner on how to accurately portray an electronic investigation.

Just as police investigators are careful never to tamper with a crime scene and must ensure that proper evidence handling techniques are followed, a computer forensics expert must ensure the integrity of the electronic evidence. This means that before any analysis can take place, the investigator must document the area where the computer is located and ensure that the proper chain of custody is followed.

Once the documentation is complete, the examiner is free to start working with the computer. However, unlike TV, where the actors work off the actual PC involved with the crime, in the real world all analysis is conducted from bit stream images and not the original evidence. (Bit stream images produce an identical copy of the original storage media by replicating all of the sectors on the device.)

This precaution is taken because turning on the computer could result in important data being overwritten and deleted, crucial date and time stamps could be altered, or, in a worst case scenario, encryption algorithms could be triggered, thus preventing the drive from being viewed by anyone.

The possibilities for the loss of crucial data are potentially endless and very real. Therefore, care must be taken at all times to ensure that the original evidence is maintained and that data is not lost through the accidental booting of the computer.

So after imaging, what's the next step? In TV Land, Grissom would

already have printed the email from the deceased's computer and be well on his way to solving the crime. In real life, once the imaging is done then the real work begins.

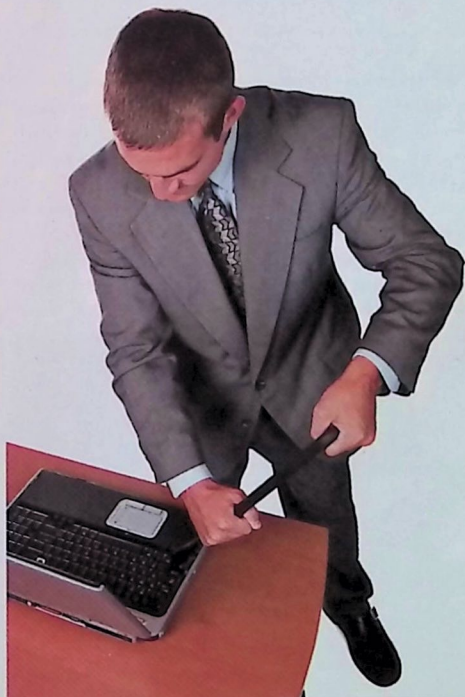
The first step is that investigators need to determine what their roles are. Are they assisting with an investigation into an alleged financial fraud, are they trying to help locate a missing person, or have they simply been asked to provide a dump of all files and emails present on the computer and pass that information on to the lead investigator?

Determining the exact nature of the investigation will help computer forensics practitioners focus their energies on the recovery of data and hopefully help point investigators in a new direction.

As computers turn up more frequently in our daily activities, the ability to properly extract key data as part of the investigative process is going to become more important. And while the day of a TV program being entirely dedicated to the recovery and review of electronic data is probably still a long way off, I do recall a time when TV featured a show called *Whiz Kids*, in which amateur computer sleuths helped police solve crimes. So I guess anything is possible!

By Dave Iverson

Dave Iverson is a manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Vancouver, British Columbia. His practice includes providing litigation support, with a specialization in cybercrime investigations and computer forensics.





# Final Fantasy's creator talks Xbox

**Will a partnership with legendary Japanese developer Hironobu Sakaguchi give the Xbox 360 much-needed cred outside North America? Microsoft hopes so.**

It's no secret that Xbox sales in Japan haven't been as brisk as Microsoft would have liked. Japanese gamers apparently took issue with the Xbox's hefty girth and super-sized controllers, and have shown indifference to the Xbox's game library, which is stacked with first-person shooters and is short on Japanese-style role-playing games like Final Fantasy and Dragon Warrior.

In an effort to diversify the library of the next-generation Xbox 360 — and hopefully gain a few new foreign fans in the process — Microsoft has enlisted the help of Hironobu Sakaguchi, the "Father of Final Fantasy".

During his sixteen years with Square, Mr. Sakaguchi supervised every Final Fantasy title from I to X-2, and worked on a slew of other successful role-playing games including Chrono Trigger, Kingdom Hearts and Parasite Eve. Final Fantasy has sold more than 60 million copies, making it one of the most successful role-playing games of all-time.

After leaving Square, Mr. Sakaguchi founded Mistwalker studios in 2004, where he is currently developing two new role-playing games exclusively for the Xbox 360, entitled Blue Dragon and Lost Odyssey.

We were lucky enough to be among the handful of journalists that Mr. Sakaguchi spoke with at E3 in Los Angeles. Through the aid of a translator, he talked about what it was like to work with the Xbox 360.

**Q:** Is it because of the technology of the Xbox 360 that you decided to do something for Xbox, or is it because, prior, the original Xbox was not up to your standards?

**Sakaguchi:** It's more like a personal experience that I had with certain people. I left Square, and for two and a half years I was off. I didn't do any creative work during that time, so it was like a charging period. I read many books and watched almost all the movies. Towards the end, I started having the urge to create something again.

At the beginning of last year, I started doing some creative work, and at that time I met two people at Microsoft. One person is Mr. [Yoshihiro] Maruyama. He's the one who I was working with when I was working for Square, and we worked together to sell Final Fantasy in the United States market. [Mr. Maruyama marketed Final Fantasy VII in North

America. It became a smash hit and remains one of the most popular and best-selling games in the Final Fantasy franchise — ed.]

Another person is Mr. [Hiroshi] Kawai, who was the main programmer for Final Fantasy VII through IX. So these two men who I really trust now work for Microsoft. I didn't choose Microsoft because of the 360 and technology, it's just the network, the personal relationships with these people that happened to lead to Microsoft.

**Q:** In what way do you think that the stories in Blue Dragon and Lost Odyssey can appeal to Westerners?

**Sakaguchi:** I haven't really considered these as Japanese traditional stories. For example, in Blue Dragon, the story started as one day the shadow of the character looked like a dragon, and after that, many accidents and events happen. And with Lost Odyssey, I wanted players to [cry], which isn't really seen in games. So it's not really Japanese; I wanted to offer something never before seen in a game, but that can be found in movies — movies about the family.

There are many Western movies that produce tears with ideas about families, so those are the things I'm working for, and I'm not trying to create something Japanese and transfer that to Western culture. The focus is on worldwide storyline.

**Q:** In what ways are you hoping to take your new studio in a new direction from your previous work with Square?

**Sakaguchi:** [With Square,] typically the production studio has more than 100 people on a team, and then we feel pressure that we need to move the storyline fast, and that the game concept will have to progress otherwise the company doesn't run. However, with Mistwalker, including myself there are only about ten people working for that organization, so it's a small group, and a concept organization group. In a sense, we can spend a lot of energy and time to do pre-production and concept art, so once we are fully convinced with that, then we can move into having a team and move the project. So it's a different style. We might be working for two years on just the concept stage.

**Q:** What are the advantages and disadvantages of developing titles for the 360?

**Sakaguchi:** [Thinks for a few seconds, then says in English] I don't know. **Translator:** He can't think of any disadvantages.

**Q:** What about the advantages?

**Sakaguchi:** I can talk a lot about the advantages. First of all, the machine power is really strong. In previous versions, performance and power is limited. So even though I wanted to create something elaborate, I couldn't, because there is a limit. Now, there's almost no limit, so I don't have to worry about the machine's limitations when I create the game.

By Erin Bell



In Blue Dragon, the boy Shu possesses a phantom shadow of awesome power.



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# Dungeon Siege II

**Publisher:** Microsoft **Developer:** Gas Powered Games **Platform:** PC

The danger with any Diablo-inspired hackfest is that the "killing n' capitalism" model (adventure, kill lots of baddies, sell loot at nearest town, acquire better equipment for character, repeat) can easily turn into a snoozefest. Luckily for fans of the genre, *Dungeon Siege II* is a nuanced and fairly engaging example of a dungeon crawl done right.

Environments are varied, for one thing. Much of the game takes place above ground in locales ranging from forest to desert, each with unique indigenous enemies. Another plus is that adventuring doesn't have to be a solitary pursuit. You can recruit other willing travelers and animal companions who, once in your party, will remain loyal to you forever and

can be switched in and out at the local tavern.

Although you only directly control the character you create, you can equip items and spells on other party members and give them strategies to use while attacking. Left to their own devices, allies are fairly reliable. They'll

readily attack an assigned target and heal each other, but will occasionally get confused and left behind while walking if you aren't paying attention.

The wide variety of weapons, armours and trinkets in the game will keep item-hoarders happy. Characters build skills and advance in level by using a particular weapon or spellbook as opposed to experience points-based levelling. In other words, if you want your character to be a melee weapon specialist, simply use a sword or axe a lot; if you want a combat mage, cast a lot of attack spells.

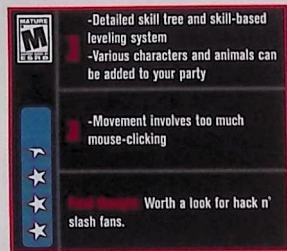
Control is made easy by numerous keyboard shortcuts, although you must move the characters by using the mouse to click on a point in the distance that they then run to. It's a shame that you can't just hold the mouse down and make movement a single, fluid motion.

The story is a rather hackneyed hodgepodge of fantasy stereotypes; the only thing you need to understand is that a Bad Guy is threatening the

land and you have to stop him before his soul-sucking death mages turn the entire world into zombies.

It doesn't exactly innovate, but it's fun while it lasts.

By Erin Bell



# 187 Ride or Die

**Publisher:** Ubisoft **Developer:** Ubisoft France **Platforms:** Xbox, PS2

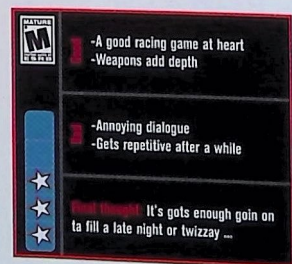
For all its self-consciously deliberate gangsta posturing, this racing game named for the section number for murder in the California Penal Code is essentially a thugged up Mario Kart: Double Dash.

The action takes place on the streets of LA, where a young "rida" named Buck is recruited by the local gang leader to defend his turf and take out members of a rival crew. The driving in the game takes on a few different forms, from straight-ahead reach-the-finish-line-first competitions to survival missions, death matches, and vehicle escort missions. And of course no driving game set in LA would be complete without a few high-speed police chases on the freeway.

Like Double Dash, the vehicles in 187 Ride or Die typically hold two people; one to do the driving while the other takes pot-shots at other drivers using a variety of weapons.

Gameplay and production values are decent but unremarkable. Multiplayer mode offers split-screen head-to-head or co-op play in both racing and deathmatch challenges; in the latter, one player drives while the other shoots.

The cars (which range from muscle cars to tank-like SUVs) handle pretty well, and it's not difficult for one person to juggle both the riding and the shooting in single player mode, thanks in large part to an auto-aiming feature.



The only frustration found with the controls in the Xbox version tested was that the analog stick button activates the rear view mirror. After a few races of trying to steer with the analog stick and accidentally switching to rear-view after inadvertently pressing down on the analog button during a particularly frantic turn, we gave up and instead had to use the less optimal directional pad to steer.

While the whole gangsta premise of 187 Ride or Die seems forced, if you can make it through all the "ya hears" and "holla backs" in the cutscenes without laughing or becoming offended, you'll find something that's good for short bursts of play or weekend timewasting (preferably with a few friends on hand).

By Erin Bell





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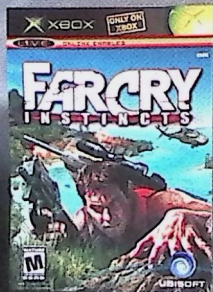
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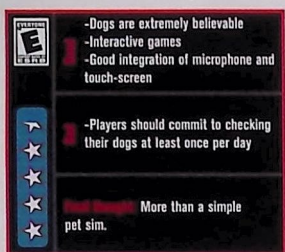
# Nintendogs

Publisher / Developer: Nintendo Platform: Nintendo DS

To lay the first question that came to mind around the HUB offices to rest: no, you can't kill the dogs you cruel, heartless sadists.

Nintendogs is the latest in virtual pets, sort of like the Tamagotchi, NeoPet and various other beggars and hangers on trend that swept pre-teen classrooms in the late 90s. There's a lot more depth to be found here however, and the pets are amazingly lifelike, especially when compared with the blocky pixels found on the monochrome screens of the aforementioned digipets.

In fact, what makes Nintendogs so compelling is just how believable the dogs contained therein are. From the first part of the sort-of game where players walk up to the kennel door and knock three times using the touch screen to the first few days users spend with their dog, the pup's first



learned voice command (issued via the DS microphone) or the first time users have to pick up after their dog on the evening constitutional, a legitimate bond is built between owner and pet.

A lot of time can be spent just interacting with the dog - petting it using the stylus and



touch screen, teaching it voice commands such as "sit," "paw," "down" and a host of others. However, where Nintendogs becomes more than just another pet sim - albeit a very well thought out one - is in interactive competitions

and games. Trainers can enter their dogs (up to three can be kept at a time) into point-based flying disc, agility and obedience competitions.

Aside from the virtual pet interaction, users can purchase or find different home decors, toys, hats, collars and a host of other accoutrements to customize the game to their liking.

The game requires that players check in at least once a day to feed, water and interact with their dogs. Don't show up for a few days and you may be faced with a flea-bitten and skittish pet. Leave him alone for too long and he might just run away for a few days.

All game times are tied to real-time via the system clock; if players aren't going to be able to check in on their pet for a few days, she can be checked in to a doggie hotel to take care of the necessities.

By Andrew Moore-Crispin

# Madden NFL 2006

Publisher: Electronic Arts Inc. Developer: EA Tiburon Platforms: PlayStation 2, Xbox, GameCube



a game they already own. Well, Madden NFL 2006 is the exception to this rule. Packed with a ton of new features, it is a very different game from Madden 2005.

Perhaps the most interesting addition to this edition is the NFL Superstar Mode. This single-player mode allows you to step into the life of an NFL player. You create your player by choosing his parents or importing him from NCAA Football Legend or NFL Street 2. You decide how he conducts himself on and off the field, who he hires and fires as an

agent, what endorsement deals he inks and how much he trains. You even get to call press conferences, travel the city you play in, act in movies and surf your own Web site a fan has set up for you. Never has a Madden NFL game



incorporated such a soap-opera feel.

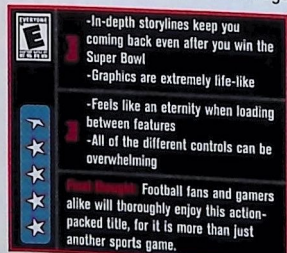
Another great feature that sets this Madden apart from its predecessors is the Quarterback Vision Control. Your field of vision is dependent on your quarterback

rating, and allows you to look off receivers and lock onto others. This can be tricky at first during the mini-camps, and the highlighted field of vision can be distracting when calling a rushing play during practice. However, once mastered, it gives the gamer a more realistic football experience.

Of course Madden NFL 2006 has not forgotten its roots; all of the usual features are still included. As always with EA Sports, the graphics and



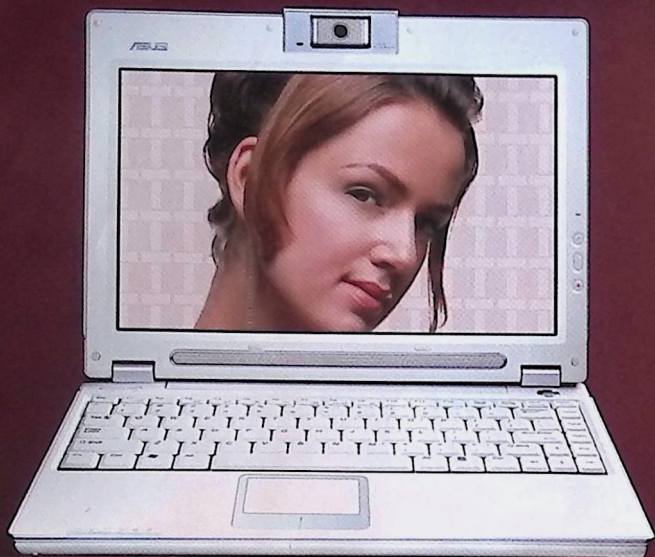
movements of the players are life-like and incredible. It is obvious why Madden NFL 2006 has the exclusive videogame license of the NFL and its players; the authenticity of the game is like no other and it is the best Madden NFL to date.



By Pam Mazzuca



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